A review has recently been undertaken in respect of training, marketing, design development welfare schemes.

(c) State-wise funds are not allocated in the handicrafts sector. However, a sum of Rs. 55 crores and Rs. 53 crores have been allocated during the year 1998-999 and 1999-2000 respectively for promotion and development of handicrafts in the country.

Financial Assistance to Destitute Handloom Weavers in Orissa

4111. SHRI RAMCHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) Whether it is a fact that destitute Handloom Weavers and cooperative societies of Handloom weavers are being encouraged in Orissa by giving them margin money, financial loan etc. for stock and marketing; and

(b) if so, what was the provision for the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 and amount released to Orissa under the Central plan schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The Scheme of Margin Money for Destitute Weavers was in operation since 1991-92 upto 1996-97, thereafter the Scheme was merged with Project Package Scheme (PPS) from the year 1997-98. No fresh proposal for release of Margin Money was received during 1999-2000 for destitute weavers. During 2000-2001, financial assistance would be extended to release balance amount of earlier sanctioned project in receipt of viable proposals from the State Governments from the common budget head for PPS and other Schemes. So far as marketing assistance is concerned, Rs. 194.80 Lakhs under market Development Assistance and Rs. 20.67 Lakhs for rebate have been released to Government of Orissa towards claims of State Level Handloom Agencies and the Handloom Cooperatvie Societies.

Health Package Scheme for Weavers in Orissa

4112. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that good population of Orissa are engaged in the weaving profession both in organised and unorganised sectors and are suffering from weaving related diseases like T.B. and Asthma etc.;